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TRIBUTE TO THE NOME CULT  
"TRAIL OF TEARS"

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 133d anniversary of the Nome Cult "Trail of Tears."

Not long ago, native Americans from Chico were forced to relocate across what is now the Mendocino National Forest to Round Valley.

In September 1863, 461 Indians were marched under guard from Chico to the Nome Cult Reservation, nearly 100 miles across the Sacramento Valley and rugged north coast ranges. Most of those removed from Chico were Maidu from the north Sacramento Valley and adjacent foothills, but members of other tribes were also relocated. Only 277 Indians completed the journey to Nome Cult Reservation.

Although the path has disappeared, we now call this route the Nome Cult Trail. Currently, U.S. Forest Service signs mark the route where the Indians and their military escorts camped along the most grueling part of the trail in the Mendocino National Forest.

Today, I wish to acknowledge this tragedy but also to celebrate in full recognition of our past. While the Nome Cult Trail is a tragic chapter in my State's history, it is also a story about the resilience and strength of California Indians. It is an important legacy for their descendants and for all Californians.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. WITOLD  
URBANOWICZ AND JAN NOWAK-  
JEZIORANSKI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Polish Heritage Week, and to remind my colleagues of the contributions made to our society by Polish-Americans.

First, I would like to pay special tribute to Gen. Witold Urbanowicz. I was saddened to hear of his death on August 18, 1996. General Urbanowicz was a true hero to the Allied forces during World War II, serving as a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain and in China with the Flying Tigers of Gen. Claire L. Chennault. For his distinguished service, General Urbanowicz received Poland's highest decoration for valor, the Order of Virtuti Militari. He was also awarded the British Order of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Last year, he received a formal promotion to general in the Polish Forces from Polish President Lech Walesa. His brave service will not be forgotten.

Additionally, I would like to honor Jan Nowak-Jezioranski. On September 20, 1996, Nowak was awarded the highest civilian honor in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The award honored his service during World War II, in which he risked his life to

bring vital information from Poland to the Allies. Later, he directed Radio Free Europe's Polish Service, and was a voice of hope to millions of his fellow Poles.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor these two great men, and to celebrate the contributions of all Polish-Americans during this very special week.

V.F.W. POST 5267 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5267 of Hanover Township, Pennsylvania. The post is celebrating its 50th anniversary and I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this milestone event.

On November 5, 1945 thirty veterans returning from overseas duty in World War II accepted the invitation of the late Edward Dozyk, a WWI veteran, to formulate initial plans for a V.F.W. post in Hanover Township. Application for a charter was sent to the National Headquarters and the charter was granted in 1946.

The first group of officers were founder of the post Commander Edward Dozyk, Senior Vice Commander Nelson Gray and Adjutant and third year Commander Michael Juls.

During the next few years the post spent time moving from one location to another. In 1967 the post purchased its current home.

Mr. Speaker, since its beginning in 1946 the post has grown from 30 members to over 700. The post provides valuable community services to the active veterans community in the Wyoming Valley. During its history members of the post have participated in over 2100 military funerals as well as numerous Veterans Day Celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor these dedicated men and to join the Hanover Township Board of Commissioners and Commission President Pat Aregood in proclaiming the week of September 22nd as V.F.W. Post 5267 week in Hanover. I send my best wishes on their 50th anniversary.

DOSE OF REALISM NEEDED IN  
DEALING WITH RUSSIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, in a major policy speech delivered in Stuttgart, Germany, Secretary of State Christopher presented his vision for the future of a "New Atlantic Community" and called for the elaboration of a formal charter between NATO and Russia as an integral aspect of the alliance's process of enlargement. The headstrong determination of the Clinton administration to forge ahead with some form of formal partnership between Russia and NATO should give cause for concern.

I am not convinced that such an initiative—which is fraught with risks—is warranted.

In his address, Secretary Christopher boldly proclaimed that "a Democratic Russia can

participate in the construction of an integrated, Democratic Europe." Frankly, Mr. Speaker, Russia's Democratic credentials are not yet firmly established. One need look no further than the killing fields of Chechnya to see the limits of the Kremlin's commitment to genuine democracy. Let us not forget that President Yeltsin signed the decrees, later made public, that launched the large-scale Russian military operations which laid waste to Grozny, leveled scores of towns and villages, led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Russian and Chechen civilians, and resulted in tens of thousands of deaths.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am particularly disturbed by Secretary Christopher's attempts to gloss over Moscow's campaign of death and destruction in Chechnya. "Though their [the Russian people's] struggle is far from complete," Christopher acknowledged, "as the 20-month assault on Chechnya demonstrated, the Russian people have rejected a return to the past and vindicated our confidence in democracy." In keeping with the tendency of the Clinton administration to turn a blind eye toward Chechnya, the Secretary's remark papers over the Chechnya's negative consequences for democracy in Russia.

Instead of heeding the Kremlin's brutality in Chechnya as a wakeup call of the threat to Russia's fledgling democracy, Secretary Christopher and others in the administration seemed content to push the snooze button and roll over while thousands of innocent men, women, and children were killed and those truly committed to Democratic principles increasingly came under fire for their opposition to Yeltsin's Chechen policy.

Russia must consolidate democracy, human rights, and rule of law at home, Mr. Speaker, before she can ever be considered a credible partner in constructing an integrated, Democratic Europe, envisioned by Mr. Christopher. Welcoming the Russians as full partners in building a new Europe that is free of tyranny, division, and war, as the Secretary has done, is premature at best. A fundamentally new relationship with Russia can only be built on a firm foundation of trust and confidence based on concrete deeds.

Secretary Christopher's smug assertion that no power in Europe now poses a threat to any other belies the fact that Russian missiles, once targeted at the United States, can be re-programmed within a matter of minutes. His claim is also easier made in Stuttgart than in places like Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, or for that matter, Kiev.

While the United States should continue to encourage cooperation among countries in the Baltic region, Mr. Speaker, it is important to keep in mind that such cooperation cannot substitute for NATO membership.

We cannot ignore that historical relationship between Russia and her neighbors, many of whom have understandable concerns for their sovereignty and independence, given decades of brutal domination and suppression by Moscow. Such apprehension can only be heightened by the current leadership crisis in the Kremlin and by the fact that some Russians yearn for the recreation of their empire. All the while, Russia's neighbors continue to seek normal relations with the Russian Federation based on mutual respect and sovereign equality.